

**NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL:
MA IN TEACHING
NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY**

***ACTION*
Agenda Item H-2
March 19, 2001**

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the council approve the master of arts in teaching (MAT) proposed by Northern Kentucky University.

Background

Northern Kentucky University designed the master of arts in teaching to prepare teachers who can help relieve teacher shortages in northern Kentucky. The program, which also provides certification for emergency teachers, would complement existing undergraduate middle school and secondary teacher education.

The proposed program would allow bachelor's degree recipients in areas other than education to pursue teaching credentials while working. Students could complete course work, practicum, and student teaching requirements in three semesters and two summer sessions.

Using the Kentucky Postsecondary Program Proposal System, Northern Kentucky University posted the proposed program to the council's Web site. It was reviewed without objection by the other Kentucky public and independent institutions. The NKU Board of Regents approved the program January 17, 2001.

An overview of the program, prepared by NKU, is attached.

MA in Teaching Northern Kentucky University Overview

There is a growing demand for teachers in Kentucky, as well as nationally. This is especially true in the region served by the Northern Kentucky University. We are faced with a major teaching shortage in mathematics, science, special education, and foreign language. Elementary, secondary, and special education teachers are in the “top 10” of the top 50 northern Kentucky occupations with the most annual job openings. The School of Education receives an average of five calls a week from people expressing interest in becoming a teacher. Many of these people possess a baccalaureate degree and have a career in business, industry, and other fields. They now want to fulfill a lifetime dream of making a difference with our young people by teaching. This new Master of Arts in Teaching Degree program will allow those individuals to continue their employment on a full-time basis and engage in teacher preparation over a 17-month period. The first phase of this program will include persons who are preparing to be middle school or secondary education teachers.

The new Master of Arts in Teaching Degree will not supplant the existing undergraduate middle or secondary education programs. Both programs are needed to provide an effective teaching force for northern Kentucky schools.

The Master of Arts in Teaching Degree was developed collaboratively by the P-12 schools in northern Kentucky, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Education. The Northern Kentucky Association of School Superintendents has wholeheartedly endorsed this program. All of the departments in the College of Arts and Sciences have expressed their intention to participate in the program by providing advisory services, appropriate content courses, pedagogy courses, and supervision of student teaching and internship.